annual report

environmental control council

for the year ending Dec. 31, 1983

Nova Scotia

To His Honour
The Honorable Alan R. Abraham, C.D.
Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia

May it please Your Honour:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Nova Scotia Environmental Control Council for the year ending 1983.

I have the honour to be, Sir:

Your most obedient servant,

George Moody

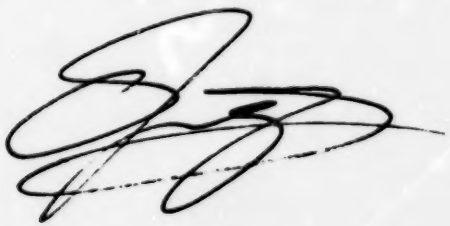
George Moody
Minister of the Environment

Honourable George Moody
Minister
Department of Environment
Province of Nova Scotia

Dear Sir:

I have the honour to submit the Annual Report of the Nova Scotia Environmental Control Council for the year ending December 31, 1983.

Respectfully submitted,



Morris J. Haugg
Chairman

INTRODUCTION

The Nova Scotia Environmental Control Council is a twelve to fifteen member citizens advisory board to the Minister of the Environment, established under the Environmental Protection Act, SNS 1973 c.6.

This Annual Report is submitted under Section 16 of the Environmental Protection Act, and describes Council activities during the 1983 calendar year.

STRUCTURE

The Environmental Protection Act sets out the composition, function and responsibilities of the Environmental Control Council. The twelve to fifteen members are appointed by the Governor in Council to represent eleven specified disciplines. In addition, the Deputy Minister of the Environment is an ex-officio member of Council.

Membership of Council during 1983 was as follows:

Executive Members

James MacDonald, Chairman — At Large, Sydney (term expired September 30, 1983)
Murdena Carmichael — At Large, South Haven, Victoria County
Morris J. Haugg, Chairman — At Large, Amherst (appointed October, 1983)
Paul Buxton — Engineering, Annapolis Royal (appointed October, 1983)

Members

Benson Auld — Medicine, Halifax (term expired September 30, 1983)
J. Fraser Dunn — At Large, Antigonish
James Harrison — Conservation, Dartmouth (term expired September 30, 1983)
Amos Lewis — Agriculture, Hampton, Annapolis County
R. Vernon King — Industry, Waverley
Larry MacKenzie — Fishery, Yarmouth
R. K. MacKinnon — Forestry, Liverpool
J. Robert MacQueen — Academic, Lower Sackville (term expired September 30, 1983)
Harry Munro — Legal, New Glasgow (appointed July, 1983)
R. Wendall Phinney — Municipal, Kentville
Roydon B. Vail — At Large, Kentville

Until his departure in mid 1983, E. L. L. Rowe, P. Eng., Deputy Minister of the Environment, was ex-officio member attending both Executive and Council meetings. Morris J. Haugg, Amherst, was Secretary and Chief Executive Officer until October, 1983, when James MacDonald, Sydney, assumed that office. J. Gordon

Ogden III, Ph. D., Consultant, attended both Executive and Council meetings until April 1, 1983, when his contract terminated. Donna McCready, Research Coordinator, attends Executive and Council meetings. For most of the year, Miss McCready's services were shared with the Sable Island Environmental Assessment Panel.

Throughout most of 1983, Council was hampered by vacancies in various categories, in particular, the vacancy on the Executive which existed from December, 1982 to October, 1983. At year's end, vacancies existed in the Medicine, Conservation, Academic and Labour categories. The loss of the Consultant to Council, due to budget restraints, also significantly affected Council.

The Honourable Greg Kerr was Minister of the Environment until November, 1983, when the Honourable George Moody assumed the portfolio. Council Executive had a very positive meeting with the new Minister in December, and it is anticipated that relations between Council and the Department will be excellent in the coming year.

MEETINGS

The Council held three meetings in 1983, all in Halifax. There were eleven Executive Meetings: nine in Halifax, one in Sydney and one in Truro. The schedule of meetings was:

Executive

January 25	Halifax
February 28	Halifax
March 23	Halifax
April 20	Halifax
May 18	Halifax
July 9	Sydney
August 16-17	Truro
September 13	Halifax
September 25	Halifax
December 9	Halifax

Council

February 27-28	Halifax
June 28	Halifax
September 25-26	Halifax

Attendance at, and participation in, meetings continued to be excellent.

HEARINGS

There were no Public Hearings during 1983. However, Council was consulted by the Minister on a request for a variation on the waste disposal recommendation of the Cobequid Industrial Park Public Hearing. In September, Halifax County Council rejected the proposal and an application to rezone the property has since been filed by the citizens.

ACTIVITIES AND STUDIES

Beverage Containers Act

In response to resolutions of two organizations, Council began a review of existing beverage container legislation in the Province.

Coastal Erosion

a) Erosion Study — Northumberland Strait: Council received a copy of the study conducted for the Department. Subsequent discussions indicated that the Department would consult with Council during policy development on this important issue.

b) Pilot Program — Chutes Cove/Hampton Beach: A final report on the pilot project using buried derelict vehicles and armour rock was not forwarded by the Department. Final work on the project was undertaken in late 1983, and Council member Amos Lewis, who was very active in the project, reported that the technique appears to have been successful in this instance.

Council Brochure

Text was prepared for an informational brochure on Council for distribution to politicians, municipalities, organizations and the general public. It should be printed early in 1984.

Environmental Assessment Process

A draft Environmental Assessment Process was forwarded to Council by the Department. An initial review of the paper was completed by the Executive and recommendations related to screening guidelines and public participation were submitted to the Minister.

Environmental Protection Act: Proposed Amendments

Recommended amendments to the sections of the Act relating to Council were not considered during the last Session of the Legislative Assembly. These were re-submitted to the Minister for consideration.

Environmental Awards

In 1982, this program was transferred to Council from the Department. Six major Awards and fifteen Certificates of Merit were presented by the Minister in June, 1983. Some changes were made in the promotion and presentation of the Awards which appear to have been successful. Further improvements, including the separation of Organizations into two categories, will be implemented for the 1983 Awards.

Hazardous Wastes

Council maintained its interest in hazardous wastes as an important environmental issue. Of particular interest are the public participation activities associated with hazardous waste management. An update on Department activities in this area has been arranged for the January, 1984 Council meeting.

Herring Cove

During the summer of 1983, there was considerable public and media interest in sewage disposal in Herring Cove. Council requested and received information on the issue from the Department and indicated that, although a Public Hearing might not be appropriate, Council would be able to play a role in mediating the conflict. However, Council is satisfied that this is being done by a committee established under the Metropolitan Area Planning Commission.

Lake Management Study

Funds were not available for a study to develop a model for determining development capacity for recreational lakes. Council maintained the position that this would be of great value in the protection and management of fresh water resources, and continued to recommend that the Province undertake a project of this nature.

Mosers Island

Concerns were expressed to Council about a proposed fish processing operation on Mosers Island, Halifax County. Council strongly recommended that the Minister ensure that environmen-

tal considerations are fully addressed in the course of municipal and provincial approvals processes.

Nicteaux Gravel Pit

This matter, an abandoned gravel pit, remained outstanding through the year. Departmental investigations indicated that there were several owners of the property. These owners were identified and contacted. By year's end it appeared that the situation would be resolved by a cooperative effort of the Department of the Environment and the Department of Transportation.

On Site Sewage Disposal Regulations

Council contacted the Department of Health with respect to the Department review of these regulations. The Department will inform Council of any proposed changes.

Pesticides

Council maintained its interest in the use of pesticides in Nova Scotia, and recommended to the Minister that the Department undertake public information activities prior to approval of applications for pesticide permits. At the request of the Minister, Council is preparing a more detailed review and recommendations and will submit these early in 1984.

Public Participation

In addition to the recommendation for improved public information on pesticide permit applications, Council discussed various other public participation activities. These included informal public sessions as part of regular Council meetings, restructuring of Council to be more responsive to public concerns, and greater emphasis on Department information/education programs.

The Secretary was involved in arranging a public session to discuss a proposal for PCB destruction in the Amherst area. Council provided the services of the Research Coordinator as information officer to the Sable Island Environmental Assessment Panel reviewing the proposed Venture natural gas development.

Policy Review

At the request of the Minister, Council began preparations to participate in a Departmental policy review. This is expected to continue into 1984.

Royal Commission on Forestry

Council received copies of the Department of the Environment presentation to the Royal Commission, as well as the brief submitted by former Consultant J. G. Ogden III, Ph. D.

Uranium Inquiry

Council received copies of the Department of the Environment submission to the Nova Scotia Uranium Inquiry.

Yarmouth County: Fish Reduction Plant

Recurring complaints with respect to a fish reduction plant in Yarmouth County were drawn to Council's attention by the local Council member. Information on Departmental action was provided to Council.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

Council continued the practice of providing educational presentations on important environmental issues as part of regular Council meetings. Two such presentations were held during 1983.

Mr. Creighton Brisco and Mr. Lee Lewis of the Department of the Environment presented a review of the Departmental submission to the Royal Commission on Forestry. Topics of major interest were public information related to pesticides and approvals for resource management, standards for waste management and protection of water courses, and experimental programs.

Mr. Colin Duerden of Environment Canada, Atlantic Region made a presentation on hazardous wastes. Discussion included the definition of hazardous wastes, types and nature of hazardous wastes, sources, current management procedures, and alternatives for managing hazardous wastes.

MEETINGS ATTENDED

Eighth Joint National Assembly of Environmental Advisory Councils

The Chairman, one Executive member, the Secretary and the Research Coordinator attended the Joint Assembly in Ottawa, June 5, 6 and 7. The theme of the meeting was the role of Advisory Councils, with particular attention to their relationships with the public, government departments, and Ministers of Environment.

Atlantic Vegetation Managers Association Annual Meeting

Forestry representative R. K. MacKinnon and the Research Coordinator attended and reported to Council on sessions including pesticides in agriculture, the Nova Scotia Supreme Court Decision on Herbicides 2,4,D and 2,4,5-T, media relations, and public education/information.